

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to formality objections/rejections, the specification, abstract and claims have been amended above so as to put them into more traditional US format and into full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the applicant's favor.

The provisional allowance of claims 3-5, 10, 11 and 14 is appreciatively noted. No further comment will be made with respect to these allowable claims.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-9, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Ram '924 is respectfully traversed.

The applicant's invention deals with dividing communication protocols between a local user's terminal that is external to the network (e.g., see page 4, lines 15-17 of the specification) and a remote store that may communicate with such user terminal.

By contrast, Ram '924 is concerned entirely with the internal behavior of an intelligent network where a trigger is generated upon recognition of a certain type of service call (e.g., "1-800 translation" at column 5, line 5). The Examiner has attempted to equate Ram's switch node 24 (Figure 4) with the applicant's "communications terminal". However, switch node 24 is a programmable switch matrix within the intelligent network – not an external user terminal.

The intelligent switch concept is that the switch (SSP) can provide switching for POTS services where the calling user provides a destination number which the SSP can use to connect the call using its own instructions, but in those cases where the dialed number is not recognized as such a number (e.g., it is an "800" type number) this invokes a trigger, and the SSP sends the non-geographical number to the SCP for translation. The translation result (an actual destination number) is returned to the SSP, which then completes a switching operation in normal manner.

In essence, in Ram these are two different types of services, namely if the call is dialable, the switch node 25 contains all necessary instructions to switch the call, but if non-geographical service is invoked (a "800" number is dialed), the switch node receives the dialed number but just holds it pending receipt of a translation.

Thus, the "event" that the Examiner is identifying in Ram is the recognition (trigger) by the service node that the received number is one of an "800" group of numbers. This trigger occurs at the service node, and therefore one must assume that the Examiner considers that the switching action of the service node is "communicating from the terminal". However, applicant has used this expression to mean originating a communications session from the external user terminal.

In view of the applicant's explicit definition of the term "terminal" as being external to the network (e.g., see page 4, lines 15-17 of the specification), Ram '924 clearly cannot possibly anticipate any of the applicant's claims.

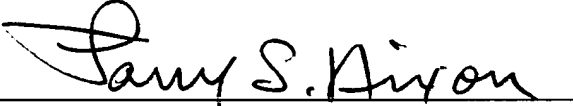
The rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on the same single Ram '924 reference is also respectfully traversed.

As already discussed, the Ram '924 reference suffers from serious fundamental deficiencies. Not only can it not possibly anticipate any of applicant's claims, it also cannot possibly make any of applicant's claims "obvious" – including claim 18.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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